

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /029 W

----- 028926

Z 241420Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5782

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5564

FOR AMBASSADOR BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJ: E AND E

REF: STATE 094360; 13AF OPS CENTER CLARK AFB PI MSGS 222335Z

APR 75 AND 231630Z APR 75.

1. I HAVE BEEN SO BUSY ON THE POLITICAL TRACK TODAY THAT I HAVE ASKED FOR A REVIEW OF YOUR QUESTION BE MADE FOR USE. WE ASSUME YOUR INCORRECT CABLE REFERENCE INTENDS TO REFER TO SAIGON 5555. THE REPORT FOLLOWS. THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS IN STATE 94360 ARE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED. FIRST OFF, THE FIGURES IN SAIGON 5555 ARE CORRECT AND SHOW A DRAWDOWN FOR THE 24 HOUR PERIOD ENDING LAST MIDNIGHT OF 206 OUT OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AS WE KNEW IT TO EXIST. IT NOW APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT NUMEROUS PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN AND UNKNOWABLE AMERICANS - DESERTERS, RETIRED CONTRACTORS, AND OTHER LOTUS EATERS - HAVE SHOWED UP FOR TRANSPORTATION. A QUICK STUDY OF THE CLARK AFB 13AF OPS CENTER REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD (REFS) SHOWS 384 AMERICANS ACTUALLY ARRIVED THERE ABOARD OUR AIRLIFT. THE 176 PREVIOUSLY UNACCOUNTED FOR AMERICANS MUST BE EITHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP DESCRIBED ABOVE, OR ELSE MEMBERS OF THE INFLUX WHICH YOU ALSO ASK ABOUT. FACTS ARE HARD TO COME BY ON THE LATTER. I CAN TELL YOU THAT 29 RECIDIVISTS SHOWED UP ON TODAY'S PANAM FLIGHT - MEMBERS OF A HONOLULU GROUP CALLED "CONCERNED VIETNAMESE AMERICANS." FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE AT LEAST HALF A DOZEN FOREIGN SERVICE PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECENTLY APPEARED TO RUN PERSONAL RESCUE MISSION AND PROBABLY SCORES MORE PRIVATE CITIZENS. THE MISSION HAS NO CONTROL OVER THESE

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RETURNEES SHORT OF ASKING THE GVN TO REFUSE ENTRANCE PERMISSION,

NOR ANY WAY TO MONITOR THE EXACT NUMBERS OF THEM.

2. IN FACT, GIVEN THE SEVERE DRAWDOWN OF MISSION PERSONNEL AND THE NEARLY ALL-OUT CONCENTRATION ON EVACUATION BY THOSE REMAINING, IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR US TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE ACCOUNTING CHORES.

3. THAT REPORT TELLS ONLY PART OF THE STORY. WE TRY TO KEEP THE STATISTICS AS WELL AS WE CAN, BUT WE ARE MORE CONCERNED IN GETTING THE PEOPLE OUT AND RECORDING THE COUNT LATER.

4. THE IMPORTANT THING IS WE WILL BE DOWN TO 1100 BY TOMORROW NIGHT.

MARTIN

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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